

European Research Area

29 March 2023

Manuel Aleixo, European Commission, DG

RTD

#ResearchImpactEU
#EUResearchArea



ERA policy and governance – state of play and outlook



European Research Area 2020 - 2023

2020

Commission Communication “A new ERA for Research and Innovation”, September

Council Conclusions on the new ERA, December

January 2021

Establishment of the **ERA Forum for Transition**

- 13 meetings
- Three workshops and R&I Days side event with ERA stakeholder umbrella organisations
- Some covered topics: ERA governance framework, ERA policy agenda, four ERA pilot actions

16 July 2021

Commission adopts proposal for a “**Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe**”

- 1) Principles for R&I in Europe
- 2) Priority areas for ERA joint actions
- 3) Investments and reforms
- 4) Simplified policy coordination

26 November 2021

Council Recommendation on a “Pact for Research and Innovation in Europe”

Council conclusions on the new ERA governance & the first ERA policy Agenda (2022-2024)

2022

Establishment of the **new ERA Forum** to implement the actions of the **ERA Policy Agenda**

European Research Area: Policy Framework



Pact for research and innovation in Europe

- 10 values and principles
- 4 priority areas
 - Deepening ERA
 - Broadening ERA and relevance
 - Amplifying access to excellence
 - Advancing R&I investments and reforms
- Research and development targets



ERA Policy Agenda

- Designed to contribute to the priority areas of the Pact for R&I, setting out the voluntary **ERA actions** which are defined and coordinated at Union level.
- 20 actions for 2022-24



ERA Governance

ERA Forum (+ subgroups)

Expert group for coordination and implementation of the ERA, together with EU countries, Associated countries and stakeholders

ERAC

high-level strategic policy body, providing advice
Council

Decision making
“Owner” of Policy
Agenda



ERA Monitoring

- Ensure a proper basis for **evidence informed policy making**
- Provide evidence and analysis in the context of the European Semester

ERA Policy Agenda: Implementation

Establishment of the new ERA Forum: February 2022

- **Co-design and coordinate** the implementation of the ERA actions, **prepare future updates** of the ERA Policy Agenda and **analyse its implementation**

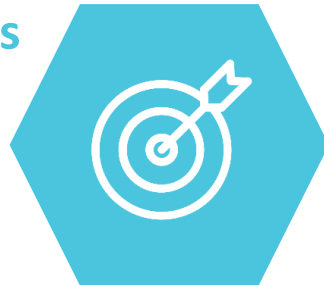


Commitment to ERA actions during the first half of 2022 (CC of Nov 2021)

- “MS and where applicable AC to **identify within the first semester 2022 the ERA actions in which they wish to participate**”
- An action to “**secure the commitment of at least half of Union Member States**” to be considered an “ERA action”

Implementation of ERA actions from 2nd half 2022 onwards

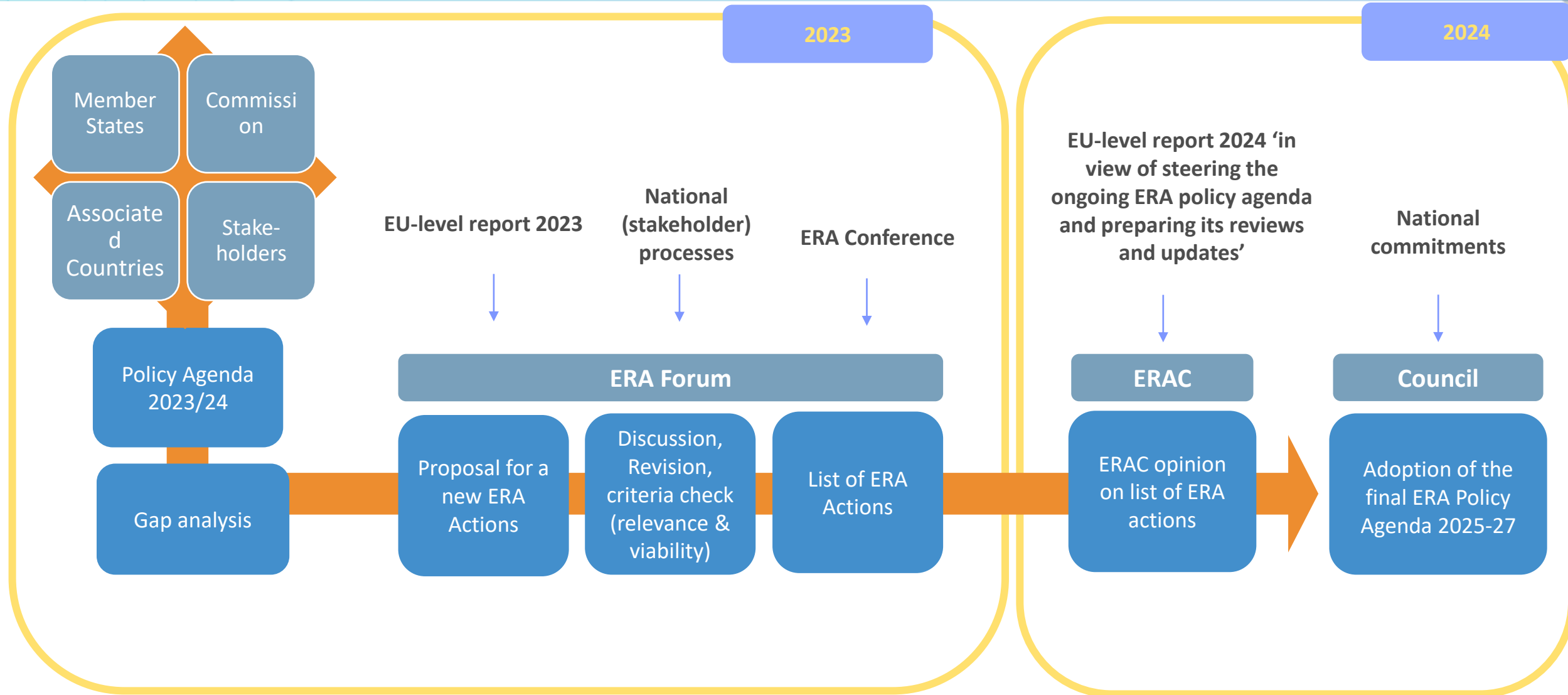
- Roadmaps/Milestones
- Implementation mode
- Monitoring



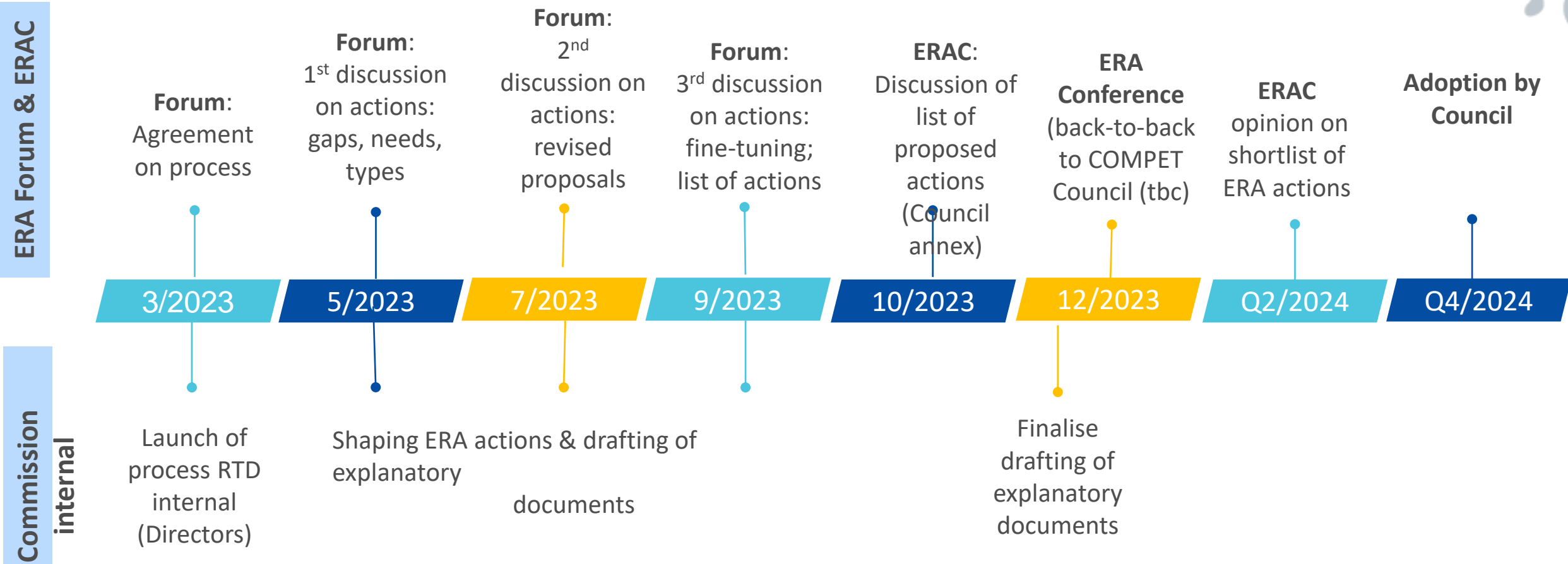
Setting-up of the new ERA monitoring from 2nd half 2022 onwards

- including the **online ERA policy platform, a scoreboard, a dashboard, and regular reporting**

Towards the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27: Process



Towards the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27: Timeline



Not in graphic but part of process: Monitoring and accompanying tasks

ERA Policy Agenda



ERA Policy Agenda: 20 actions along four priority areas

DEEPENING A TRULY FUNCTIONING INTERNAL MARKET FOR KNOWLEDGE

1. Open sharing of knowledge, incl. EOSC
2. Data legislation fit for research
3. Reform of research assessment
4. Strengthen research careers
5. Gender equality and inclusiveness
6. Protect academic freedom
7. Better knowledge valorisation
8. Research infrastructures
9. International cooperation, reciprocity

TOGETHER FOR TWIN GREEN AND DIGITAL TRANSITION, AND INCREASING SOCIETY'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ERA

10. R&I Missions and Partnerships for ERA
11. Green energy transformation
12. Transition of industrial ecosystems
13. Empower higher education institutions
14. Bring science closer to society



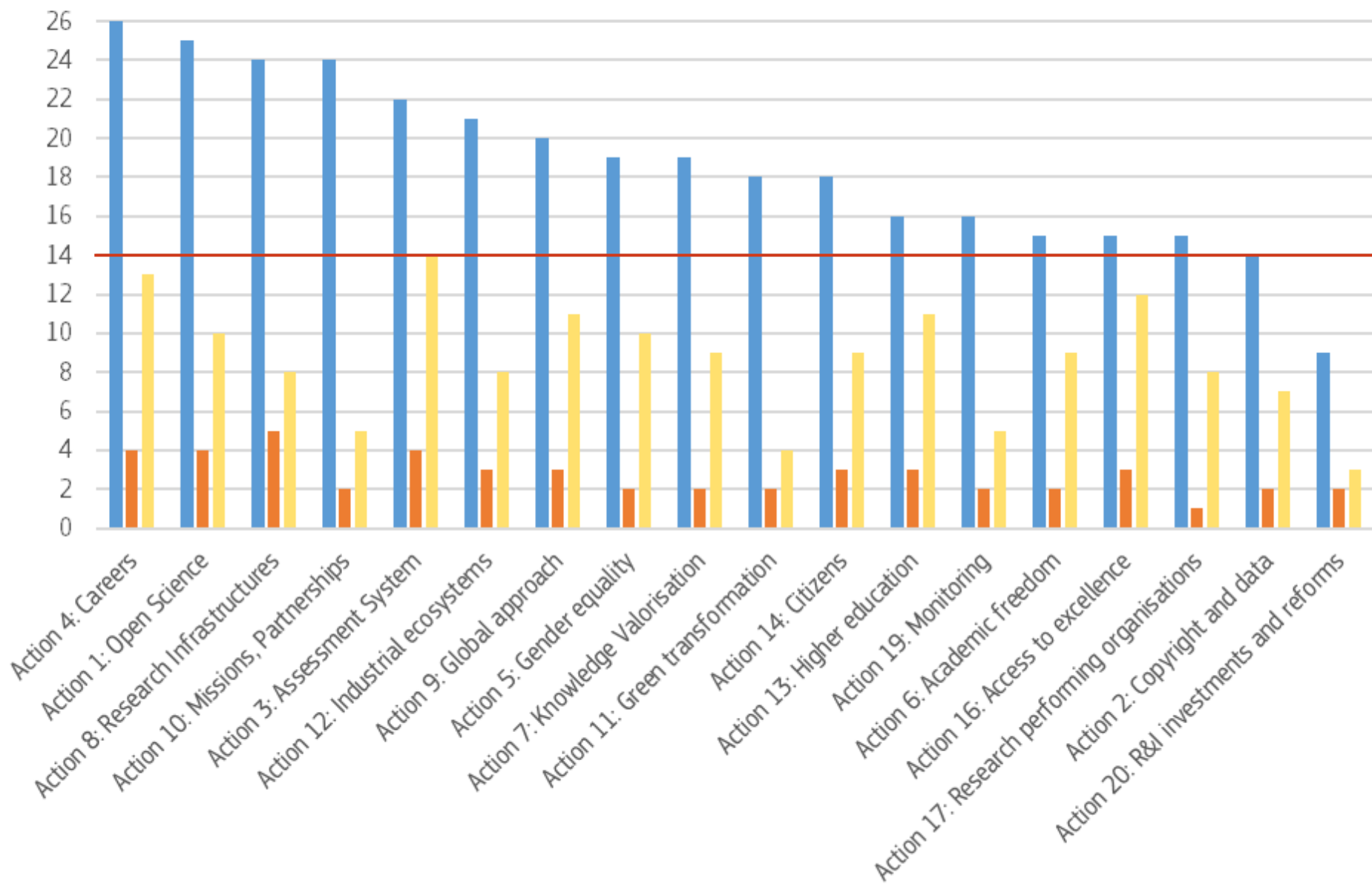
AMPLIFYING ACCESS TO RESEARCH AND INNOVATION EXCELLENCE ACROSS THE UNION

15. Regional and national R&I ecosystems
16. EU-wide access to excellence
17. Strategic capacity of public RPOs

ADVANCING CONCERTED R&I INVESTMENTS AND REFORMS

18. Coordination national support for ERA
19. ERA monitoring mechanism
20. Prioritisation and coordination of R&I investments and reforms

Commitments by Member States, associated countries and stakeholders, 24.2.2023



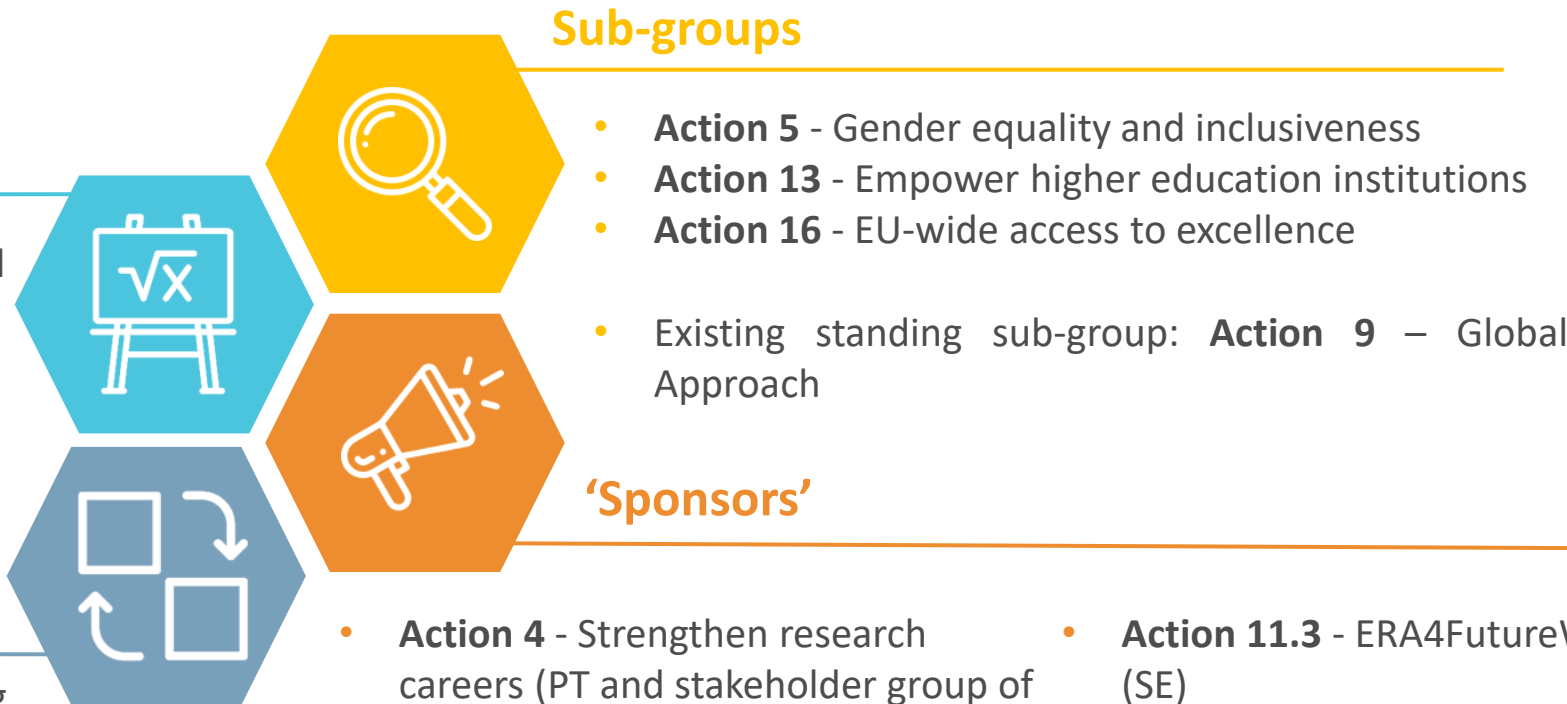
Implementation modalities by action

Workshops

- **Action 2** – Copyright & data legislation and research
- **Action 4** - Strengthen research careers
- **Action 6** - Protect academic freedom
- **Action 7** - Better knowledge valorisation
- **Action 12** - Transition of industrial ecosystems

Existing governance structures

- **Action 1** – Open Science (EOSC Steering Board)
- **Action 8** – Research Infrastructures (ESFRI)
- **Action 10.1** – Partnerships (EU Partnership Knowledge Hub)



- **Action 4** - Strengthen research careers (PT and stakeholder group of universities)
- **Action 5** - Gender equality and inclusiveness (CZ and SI)
- **Action 6** - Protect academic freedom (DE)
- **Action 10** - Missions (BE and ERRIN) & Partnerships (DE)

- **Action 11.3** - ERA4FutureWork (SE)
- **Action 17** - Strategic capacity of Research Institutions (DE, HU and stakeholder group of universities)

Implementation and priorities: Priorities & key deliverables for the coming months

Strengthen Research Careers - Action 4

- Adoption of proposal to Council Recommendation on **European Framework for Research Careers**
- Launch of implementation tools: **ERA Talent Platform** (EUR 2.5 million) **Research & Innovation Careers Observatory–(RICO)** (EUR 3.7 million in the next two years).
- Exchange of best practices on **skills** (ERA4You, ResearchCOMP)
- Promote the concept of a **political partnership on young researchers with the** launch of a Horizon Europe Pilot Call in 2024



Research assessment- Action 3

- ‘**Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment**’, CoARA, was constituted in December 2022 with 344 participants and has started its work
- First **analysis of legal and administrative barriers** as well as national workshops

Implementation and priorities: Priorities & key deliverables for the coming months

ERA Pilot for Green Hydrogen - Action 11.1

- Establish the **Roadmap on hydrogen valleys** (in June 2023)
- Double the number of **valleys** by 2025 (with an additional EUR 200 million from Horizon Europe);
- Create **synergies within the SET Plan** framework (Action 11.2)
- Develop further **skills** on hydrogen



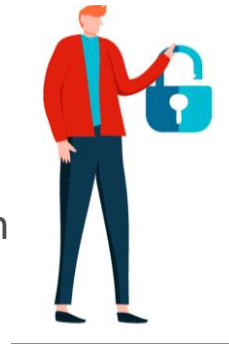
Access to Excellence - Action 16

- Set up **strategic partnerships** with MS through Enhanced Dialogues;
- Bring together **R&I policy actors and managing authorities** to assess the **innovation divide**, increase **excellence**, capitalise as much as possible the **widening instruments**, promote **reforms** and leverage R&D investments through **synergies**

Implementation and priorities: Other actions of high political interest

Open Science - Action 1

- Development of EOSC **thematic demonstrators** to showcase EOSC added value, such as the Covid-19 data platform and the platform for marine data;
- Establishment of **Monitoring mechanism** and catalogue of best practices;
- Development of **sustainability options** for EOSC post-2027.



Research Infrastructures - Action 8

- Prepare **next investment agenda** through a set of activities for European Research Infrastructures, including the new ESFRI Roadmap cycle.

Academic Freedom - Action 6

- Development of a **monitoring system** for academic freedom and freedom of scientific research;
- Exploration of options for **legislative framework**, building on SWD on tackling R&I foreign interference.

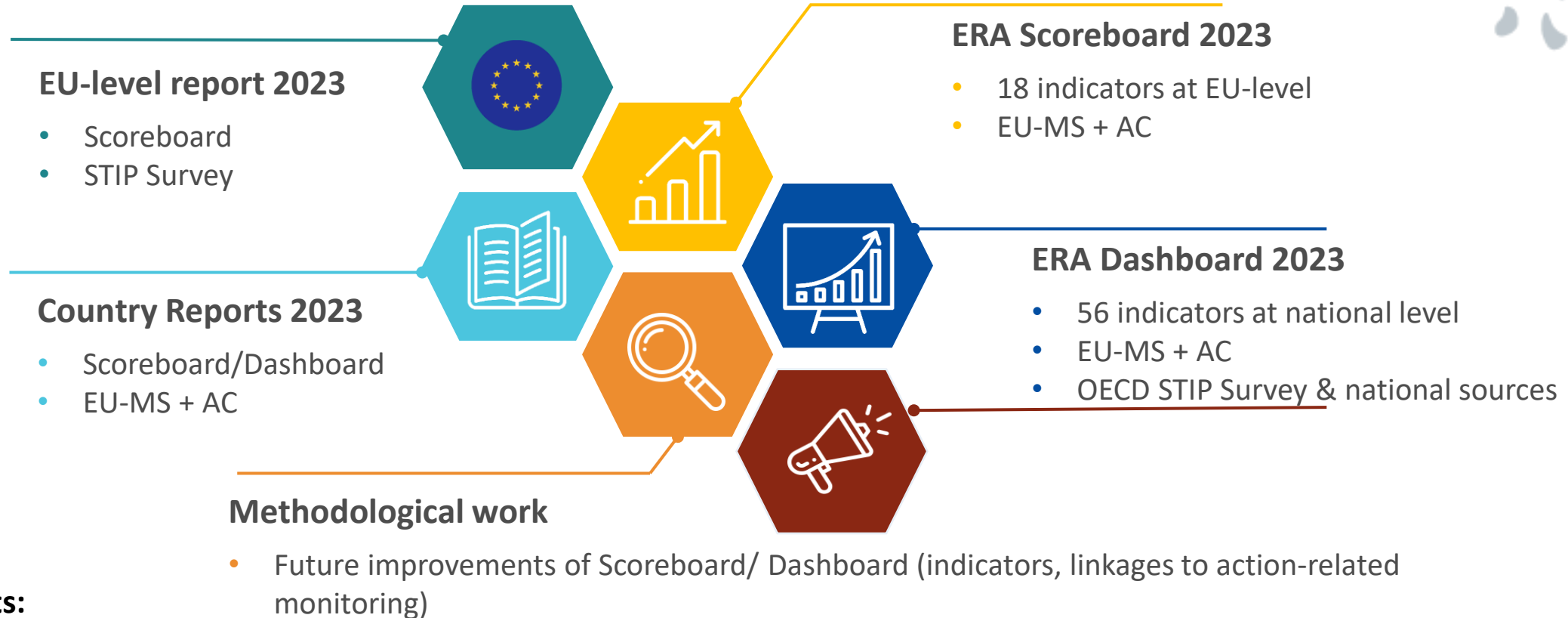


Citizen Science - Action 14

- Finalized pilot on **Plastic Pirates** led by DE;
- Endorse the idea of a **Network of European Cities of Science**, building on Leiden European City of Science, EU Contest for Young Scientists and EU TALENTON.

Action 19 – ERA Monitoring Mechanism

Outcomes:



Latest developments:

- Consortium for ERA monitoring started its work in January 2023.
- IT development team established to provide visualized data on the future ERA Policy Platform.

Coming up:

- First EU-level report to be published in autumn 2023, other monitoring products by end-2023.

Thank you!